



Seattle Preschool Program

voluntary, high-quality, affordable

# Teacher Pathways to Certification

## Meeting Objectives

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- Discuss components of teacher waiver process
- Identify key components for teacher certification

## Legislative Guidelines

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- All newly hired staff will be required to meet the following standards:
  - Director and/or Program Supervisor: Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education or a BA with college-level coursework in Early Childhood Education. Expertise or coursework in educational leadership and business management is also required.
  - Lead Teachers: Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education or a BA and a State Teaching Credential with a P-3 Endorsement.
  - Assistant Teachers: Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education or two years of coursework in Early Childhood Education meeting Washington State Core Competencies for Early Care and Educational Professionals.
  - Coaches: Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education or a BA and a State Teaching Credential with a P-3 Endorsement. "Endorsements" in selected curricula are also required.
- Current staff will be given 4 years to meet these requirements.
- The City will work with local colleges and universities to develop an alternate route program for teachers with Bachelor's Degrees in fields other than Early Childhood Education.
- The City will also develop an alternative process through which experienced, high-quality lead teachers – as defined in the Implementation Plan – may be granted waivers. (Seattle Preschool Program Action Plan, 2014)

## Why Teacher Education Matters

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- Early childhood programs that have provided the strongest evidence of large long-term effects have all employed teachers with at least BA degree and teacher certification, and corresponding pay.
- Research links teacher education and specialized training in early childhood to quality and the learning of students.
- Teacher Early Childhood Education training is necessary but not sufficient; other supports for preparation and ongoing professional development are needed.

## Additional Resources

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- Seattle Preschool Program Action Plan - *May 14, 2014*
- BERK Consulting Recommendations - *May 2, 2014*
- Seattle City Council “Preschool for All” (Resolution 31478) - *September 23, 2013*

All documents can be found here: <http://www.seattle.gov/education/about-the-levy/early-learning/seattle-preschool-program/documents>

